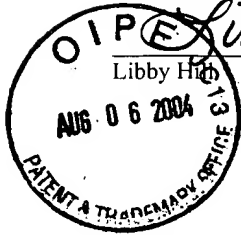


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on August 4, 2004 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

41 GP-3729  
Ref. No.: 12439-0075



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/753,310 Confirmation No. 8359  
Applicant : Eldridge et al.  
Filed : December 29, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 3729  
Examiner : C. Arbes

Docket No. : P34D1-US

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s).

**Applicants note that citation numbers 4 and 5 in the attached listing are commonly owned with the above-identified patent application and may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the above-identified patent application.** The Examiner's attention is therefore directed to the prosecution history of the foregoing patent(s) and patent application(s) and prior art cited in these patent(s) and patent application(s); Applicants assume that the Examiner has access to all of the prosecution history, including the cited prior art, of these patents(s) and patent application(s), but Applicants will provide copies of all or any part of the prosecution history of or prior art from any of these patent(s) or patent application(s) upon request.

Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

08/09/2004 BSAYASI1 00000001 09753310

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180.00 OP

☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))  
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage  
-- OR --
- ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits  
-- OR --
- ☐ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**

☒ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**

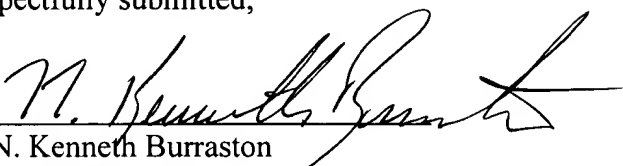
B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

*Fee:*

- ☐ No fee is due.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 4, 2004

By   
N. Kenneth Burraston  
Reg. No. 39,923

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12439-0075

Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/753,310
				Filing Date	December 29, 2000
				First Named Inventor	Eldridge et al.
				Group Art Unit	3729
				Examiner Name	C. Arbes
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	P34D1-US

U.S. PUBLISHED PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication/Issue Date
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>		
	1	5092783		Suarez et al.	3/3/1992
	2	5166520		Prater et al.	11/24/1992
	3	6059982		Palagonia et al.	5/9/2000
	4	6475822		Eldridge et al.	11/5/2002
	5	6482013		Eldridge et al.	11/19/2002

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.